

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 USPS-01 TRSE-00

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R 181755Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 676

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETEL PGOV HA UPU

SUBJ: POSTAGE STAMP & CUSTOMS SCANDALS

REF: A. PAUP 2177 & PREVIOUS; B. PAUP 2012, 1570, 1516, 1441 & 1386

1. STAMP TRIAL DECISION DELAYED - GOH PROSECUTOR, RODRIGUE CASIMIR, PRIVATELY CONFIRMED THAT JUDGE RAYMOND'S VERDICT

REGARDING THE DEFENDENTS WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO BE RENDERED SEPT 17, HAS BEEN DELAYED UNTIL MONDAY, SEPT 22. THE DELAY IS DUE IN PART TO BRAZILIAN SOCCER PLAYER PELE'S PRESENCE IN PORT AU PRINCE WITH THE NEW YORK COSMOS SOCCER TEAM, WHICH IS HOLDING SOME EXHIBITION GAMES. IT APPEARS THAT TOO MANY RANKING GOH OFFICIALS, INCLUDING SOCCER ENTHUSIAST PRESIDENT DUVALIER, ARE ATTENDING THE NUMEROUS CEREMONIES HONORING PELE TO PERMIT THE COURT SESSION TO RESUME. (CASIMIR, INCIDENTALLY, IS QUITE PLEASED WITH HIMSELF, HAVING JUST BEEN GIVEN A NEW AUTOMOBILE BY DUVALIER FOR HIS VIGOROUS COURTROOM PERFORMANCE.)

2. CUSTOMS SCANDAL TRIAL TO BEGIN - CASIMIR ALSO REVEALED THAT IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS THE GOH INTENDED TO BEGIN TRYING YET UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS IMPLICATED IN THE JUNE CUSTOMS SCANDAL (REF B). THIS CONFIRMS REPEATED INDICATIONS
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THAT OVER THE PAST WEEKS GOH INVESTIGATORS HAVE BEEN

STEADILY COLLECTING EVIDENCE AND INTERROGATING SCORES OF

PRESENT AND FORMER CUSTOMS EMPLOYEES.

3. COMMENT - IF LARGE NUMBERS OF FORMER CUSTOMS EMPLOYEES
ARE INDICTED, IN ADDITION TO BUSINESSMAN HARRY BOUTROS'
HEAVY FINE (\$400 THOUSAND), THE MOMENTUM OF DUVALIER'S
CAMPAIGN TO ROOT OUT MAJOR POCKETS OF GOH CORRUPTION WILL
BE SUSTAINED. THIS GOAL IS ALSO EMPHASIZED BY DECISION TO
RESCHEDULE STAMP TRIAL VERDICT FOR SEPT 22, THE 18TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAT FRANCOIS DUVALIER'S ELECTION AS
PRESIDENT, AND A MAJOR GOH NATIONAL HOLIDAY.
THOMSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, POSTAGE STAMPS, FRAUDS, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTA02380
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750324-0609
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750939/aaaabiqu.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PORT AU PRINCE 2177, 75 PORT AU PRINCE 2012, 75 PORT AU PRINCE 1570, 75 PORT AU PRINCE 1516, 75 PORT AU PRINCE 1441
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSTAGE STAMP & CUSTOMS SCANDALS
TAGS: ETEL, PGOV, HA, UPU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006